

**STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT**

# Cherry Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 20, 2004**

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## **SENATOR CHERRY CALLS FOR IMPROVED VOTER ACCESS** ***Legislators Kick Off Movement to Repeal Unjust Law***

(LANSING) – State Senator Deborah Cherry (D-Burton) joined Senators Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) and Virgil Bernero (D-Lansing) today as they launched a campaign to repeal a law that prevents students from voting in campus precincts unless both their driver's licenses and voter registration cards indicate the same permanent residence. Under a law passed in 2000, citizens' addresses on driver's licenses and voter registration must agree, making voting more difficult for thousands of college students living away from home.

Sen. Cherry sponsored a piece of the legislative package that allows first-time voters to cast absentee ballots. Current law requires that first-time voters vote in person.

"College students' activism catapulted the peace and civil rights movements to the forefront of the American consciousness and today we're seeing a renewed commitment," Sen. Cherry said. "If we make it difficult to access their right to vote, then we risk voter apathy among our future leaders and electorate."

The legislators held simultaneous press conferences at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University to announce plans for returning the vote to the students. Sen. Cherry joined Sen. Bernero at Michigan State's Case Hall.

Senators Brater, Bernero, and Cherry co-sponsored legislation that eases the process by which college students' participate in elections. To aid student participation in this year's general election, the senators provided literature to help them navigate around the administrative obstacles currently contained in the law.

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*Sen. Deborah Cherry is a first-term Democrat from Burton, Michigan. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she sits on the Higher Education, Department of Community Health, Department of Natural Resources and Capital Outlay subcommittees.*